(a) whether pro-rata wages are being paid to casual labourers working in P&T Department; and

(b) whether the same is being considered for the Extra-Departmental employees also; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir. The wages are based on the minimum of the pay Scale of regular employees in the corresponding cadre and D.A. as admissible on that pay.

(b) No, Sir. Extra Departmental Employees are part-time employees generally engaged for Postal work in rural and semi-urban areas for a period upto 5 hours a day. They are local residents with other avocations and sources of income to supplement the income they receive as Extra Departmental Employees. Keeping in view the above fatcors, the allowances of Extra Departmental Employees are fixed between minimum and maximum based on their work load.

Reservation of Clerical Posts for ED Employees

1536. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the recommendation of the Committee regarding reservation of clerical posts for the Extra Departmental employees; and

(b) whether this recommendation has been implemented; if so, to what extent and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Vacancies in clerical cadre are equally apportioned between the Departmental and outsiders candidates. Against departmental quota of vacancies. Lower Grade Officials below the clerical cadre (Group 'D'/ Postman etc.) are eligible to compete. Savoor Committee's recommendations was that 20 per cent vacancies in Departmental quota of clerical cadre should be ear-marked for Extra-Departmental Employees.

(b) The matter was discussed with the Staff Side but they did not agree to the proposal as they apprehended that it will affect the promotional avenues of Departmental Employees. Therefore, the recommendation of the Savoor Committee has not been implemented.

Promotional Avenues of ED Employees

1537. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase promotional avenues for Extra Departmental employees; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) the number of ED employees promoted to Group 'D' and to the cadre of Postman during the last three years, year-wise and so far during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Subsistence allowance to ED Employees

1538. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Posts had agreed to grant subsistence allowance to Extra Departmental employees under 'Pay-off' duty;

(b) if so, what extent this agreement has been implemented; if not, yet implemented, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the number of post offices in the country and how many of them are served by ED employees; and

(d) what is the number of ED employees at present under 'Pay-off' duty for more than four months and the average subsistence allowance being paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. The question of grant of subsistence allowance to E.D. employees put-off duty was considered but it was not found feasible.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The total number of post office in the country as on 31.3.1988 is 1,44,829 out of which 1,19,648 are manned by E.D. employees.

(d) As on 1.11.1987, the number of ED employees put-off duty for more than four months is 3676. No subsistence allowance is paid to ED employees for the put-off duty period.

Import of Insecticides

1539. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has allowed or recommended the ad-hoc import of restricted insecticides, fungicides and weedicides by private parties/companies; if so, what are the details thereof, productwise and company-wise along with the quantity imported during the last one year till date by each party/company; and

(b) what are the norms and conditions laid down by Government for such ad-hoc import of these items?

TH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The imports are governed by the Import Policy of the Govt. of India. In this policy, there is a list of restricted items whose imports can be allowed subject to observance of the relevant provisions of the Import Policy. In the case of insecticides fungicider and weedicides, which are registered under the Insesctcides Act the imports are recommended keeping in view the demand and indigenous availability of the product. Adhoc imports were recommended during the last one year for the following items:

1. *Carbaryl*

Gujarat Agro-Industries Corpn. 500 MT

Bharat Pulverising Mills Pvt. Itd. 100 MT

2. *Diuron*

Bharat Pulverising Mills Pvt. Ltd. 25 MT

Production of Insecticides, Fungicides and Herbicides

1540. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the technical grade of insecticides, fungicides and herbicides which are being produced in the country along with the names of the manufacturing companies, their installed capacity and the actual production, product-wise and company-wise during the last one year; and

(b) what are the names of the parties which have been granted letter of intent/industrial licence and also of parties whose applications are pending for manufacturing of technical grade of pesticides during the last two years, party-wise/product-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The required information to the extent it is available, is given in the enclosed statements I and II. (*See* below) Company-wise data is not mointored by this Department.